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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph



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Don't turn kids into 'sex bombs'

DRESSING up as a prince or princess is a common sight at Christmas parties and egg hunts in the "usually" sugary sweet world of the kind of talent shows that Social Welfare Secretary Corason "Okey" Soliman would approve of in 2003/01



online: www.inq7.net

Traders want Noli to prevent FPJ win

Ed Espiritu says only De Castro can beat actor

By Margie Quimpo-Espino and Christine Arandela

THE PRESIDENTIAL race is getting increasingly crowded. Now, there's Sen. Noli de Castro.

Though De Castro denied yesterday he has decided to run for president, his good friend, Ambassador to the Court of St. James and former Treasurer Secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu, confirmed to the Inquirer that early last month De Castro asked him if he would support him should he run for the presidency.

"I told him we will talk about it," Espiritu said during a long-distance interview with the Inquirer. "But I will not be surprised if he runs. He is enjoying good things."

The senator said that he would announce his decision whether he would run for higher office "someday."

He pointed out that he had used Act 2 to make the announcement, the deadline for filing of candidates in the May 2004 national election.

But De Castro contended that there are talks going on regarding his political plans. He could not talk about it.

Espiritu disclosed that many businessmen had called him asking him to urge De Castro to run for the presidency.

"The perception of many businessmen, who include business and accountants, is that Noli is the only one who can beat FPJ," said Espiritu, who was former president of the Philippine National Bank during the Aquino administration and finance secretary of ousted President Estrada.

TRADING/11



BUT WHERE'S the combined FPJ in a mere disembodied voice on the speaker phone at his proclamation as the "united opposition"? standard-bearers. From left, Rep. Joaquin Chaves, Sen. Panos Eralio, Sen. Tito Sotto, Mikael Mayor, Senator Blas H. Morales. Some of the other political personalities behind the Jiggly Strata, Mike Romera, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Mel Lopez. (P-11)

FPJ no-show at his proclamation

By Christine O. Arandela

THE MAN of the hour, Fernando Poe Jr., wasn't even around when he was officially named standard-bearer of the "united opposition" for the May national elections.

And the wildly popular actor has yet to accept the honor.

For, known as FPJ or De King, was not even around when the newly formed Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino proclaimed him yesterday as its presidential candidate although he was able to speak by phone to his more than 1,000 supporters gathered at the Hotel International in Manila.

"We are taking something positive or good out of it to give us a good reason to do as much as possible. I will inform you, what my response is," he said through a phone patch after Sen. Vicente Sotto III called him up.

At one point of his very brief message, FPJ/11

Roxas quits post to run for Senate, to enjoy son

By Juliet Labag-Jardines and Michelle N. Romo

ONCE FIRST DAY as a private citizen today, another Trade Secretary Manuel "Man" Roxas II will watch his 18-year-old son perform in a school play.

"One of the first things I will be able to enjoy (after resigning) is watching him perform in his school Christmas play 'Today,'" Roxas said yesterday. The bachelor son of the Aquino-Roxas clan said he resigned from the Cabinet to run for a Senate seat.

Roxas, 46, acknowledged that he was a father to Paolo Roxas when a television reporter asked him about a blood test about him having a son.

"I don't consider any response pertaining to my son as simulating. He's a joy, and a blessing," said Roxas, grandson of the late President Manuel Ponce. Besides his own children, he's a member

02003/11

Robot's leg amputated, thanks docs

By TJ Borgonio and Philip C. Tobias

ARM STRONG leader Gullit Anding aka Commander Robo has lost his left leg but he will grateful to his amazing physicians.

"Doc, thanks for giving me special attention," Col. Rafael Anding, secretary quoted Anding as saying during a visit to the latter's room at the X Luma Medical Center in Quezon City at around 7 a.m.

"He was very thankful," the military surgeon-general said at a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

Anding's left leg from the mid-thigh down, where he sustained wounds and where very poor blood circulation had been observed, was amputated in an operation.

02003/11



YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS... NOVEMBER 21

UNFORGETTABLE
A dark was in the nation's history is etched on the Wall of Remembrance, on Human Rights Day on Wednesday (Nov. 21) even as riot police (AFP) dispersed leftist demonstrators marking the passing of the day by marching toward the Palace. Or so they tried, anyway. (P-11/11/03)

Aventajado: Libyans took part of ransom

By Armand M. Nacera

THE CHIEF hostage negotiator of then President Joseph Estrada yesterday confirmed earlier reports that a total of \$25 million was paid to the Abu Sayyaf for the release of its hostages.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Robert Aventajado said \$15 million of the \$25 million that came from the Libyan government went to his fellow negotiators, former Libyan Ambassador to the Philippines Dr. Abdulhakim Sagah Alwan and Muhammad Ismail.

He also confirmed the two men of carrying up to \$25 million when they had \$10 million changed in to the local currency.

"Only Aventajado can explain where the money went. Against all odds, money is why you live as a negotiator!" Aventajado said.

He added: "If \$25 million was (the amount that) came through Aventajado and Muhammad Ismail, where did the rest of the money go? (The amount of \$25 million was a lot for low change."

Aventajado said there could not have been any way for him and his people to get their hands on the money because they never handled it. He took him with an earlier release, not saying he had personally handled the money in Abu Sayyaf leader Gullit Anding, widely known as Commander Robo.

02003/11/03

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD Why NPA arms deal from China failed



By Ricardo S. Pineda

Hispanic note: The author was a columnist at the alumnus Manila Chronicle and a senior lecturer in Journalism at the UP College of Mass Communication. He spent 30 years in China and eight years in the Philippines during the Marcos dictatorship.

WHEN I learned that Sun, Hainan, was hosting this year's Miss World pageant, I took an inventory of my emotions and sighed. When I began to think of my emotions, it had become the missing ground for an annual pageant ritual, a decadent orgy celebrating the body beautiful, to borrow from the title of political activists? The Sun is known where time had stopped and was mixed in a strange blend of reality and illusion.

Let me take you back more than 20 years.



THE TOWN of the author's residence in China's southern Hainan province, isn't what it used to be, where now a army of tourists takes to the sea for the recently held Miss World contest.

RP awaiting order for Ang extradition

By Philip C. Tabasa

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is now just waiting for the Florida circuit court to issue the extradition order for fugitive businessman Ang. Justice Undersecretary M. Mercedes Gutierrez said yesterday.

"We are still waiting for the final order. We believe that there will be no longer be any further hearings," Gutierrez said yesterday.

He said the government's intention is the case has been submitted to the court while Ang's media appearance against his extradition have been dismissed by Judge Lawrence S. Linder.

Ang faces plunder charges for the handgrips, together

with his erstwhile blood brother President Joseph Estrada, after he allegedly produced P30 million worth of Subcom video tapes from Buenos Aires.

In his filing last Nov. 27, Linder denied Ang's contention that he could not be extradited because the crime of plunder falls under the "dual criminality" requirement of the RP-US extradition treaty.

Ang had claimed that under the "dual criminality" doctrine, he could not be extradited because, unlike the Philippines, the United States has no plunder law. Under the RP-US extradition treaty, a suspect could be extradited if the charge against him is considered criminal under the laws of both countries.

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THE OFFICIAL PRINTER FOR THE 2004 ASIAN CUP

DOJ has 2 acting secretaries

By Philip C. Tabasa

CONFUSION reigned at the Department of Justice yesterday after it was found that the DOJ actually had two acting secretaries.

Justice officials were confused when an inquiry after both Undersecretaries Jose Galido and Rito Mercedes Gutierrez claimed that they were the rightful acting justice secretary. Justice Secretary General Ramonung was selling a United Nations conference against corruption in Manila, Mexico from Dec. 8 to 15. He is expected to be back on Friday.

Gutierrez said it was Malasitang that designated her as acting secretary while Galido said Gutierrez was not a department order designating him to the same position.

The conflicting claims apparently started after Ramonung verbally recommended to Malasitang that Gutierrez take over for the latter for Galido's tenure in the Palace.

In a letter dated Nov. 12 to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Ramonung designated Gutierrez as acting secretary during his absence. Malasitang appeared Gutierrez's designation as acting secretary.

But in another letter to the Palace dated Dec. 2, Ramonung recommended Galido to take over his place after he learned that Gutierrez was attending to conferences in Japan.

"Upon my recommendation, your Excellency previously approved the designation of Gutierrez as acting Secretary (Ramonung). Gutierrez is presently in Japan, hence there is a need to amend the designation of the Acting Secretary of the Department," Ramonung said.

In their latest a department order naming Galido as his permanent secretary.

Gutierrez, however, remained in the country on Nov. 28. Malasitang also remained but designated as acting secretary on Dec. 8.

"There is confusion among us about who follows," Justice DOJ official.

Ganzon widow vows to fight back

By Raj Padilla

ABS-CBN News Bureau

IBIG City—The grieving widow of former Sen. Rodolfo Ganzon is a fighting spirit.

Rosa Arago-Ganzon, 57, vowed to fight back at her assailants who filed a complaint of murder against her and her husband's physician before the Bulacan City prosecutor.

"After all this a recent tragedy. They will all get a dose of their own medicine," Rosa told the inquirer yesterday.

She said she planned to file more against her assailants for libel, grave coercion, government and bribery.

Those who helped sneak her husband's body out of the 40, Paul's Hospital will also be charged, she said.

Ganzon died of multiple organ failure last Oct. 24 at the St. Jude's Hospital where he was confined for 17 months. He was 61.

Four hours after his death, the Ganzon children took their father's body out of the hospital without the knowledge of State and the hospital authorities.

The children brought their father to the family compound in San Fernando, Pampanga, and buried him at the family mausoleum before they could secure a court order that would give her full authority over her husband's body.

On Monday the Ganzon children filed a murder complaint against their stepmother and physician Ricardo Sempio for allegedly refusing to give their father's autopsy consent, which they said could have prolonged his life.

Rosa has denounced her daughters and said she was willing to bear the consequences.

"I've been asked again, I would still do it that way. I understood the pain he went through more than any other (person) and I just could not allow myself to see this suffer again," she said.

SPORTS

Cagers cruise to 3rd victory

By Ray Lauree

BO COLE AGAIN—After playing a solid 1st and 2nd quarter, the 1st- and 2nd-half...
That victory gave the 5-foot 10-inch...
...the 3rd straight victory by...
...the 1st half...

The Filipinos have been in the...
...the 1st half...

...the Filipinos actually scored the...
...the 1st half...

The 6-foot 8-inch...
...the 1st half...

The Filipinos scored 32 of 104...
...the 1st half...

The Filipinos have the...
...the 1st half...

...the Filipinos scored the...
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...the Filipinos scored the...
...the 1st half...

BOH moves close through the Philippine defense.

RP stays 5th with 5 more golds

By Dennis Galante

HANDS—After a close...
...the 1st half...

...the 1st half...

...the 1st half...

...the 1st half...

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Pinoy chessers set pace

By Ray Lauree

...the 1st half...

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	G	B	P	T	Singapore	22	23	27	32
Malaysia	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
Thailand	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
Indonesia	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
Philippines	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52



"I'm No Longer Bothered By Hair Loss!"

When I had thinning and falling hair, the thought of becoming bald bothered me so much that I wanted to prevent it at all costs. I tried everything, but nothing worked. I didn't want to take any more medicine, so I turned to the Internet. I found a website that offered a natural hair loss solution. I tried it, and I was amazed. My hair has grown back, and I'm no longer bothered by hair loss.

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Traders want Noli to prevent FPJ win

By Kenneth D. T.

Needed for 'redshift'

Appointed as money to be taken by President Macapagal, Noli said he believed the "redshift" of the political arena would be the "redshift" of the economy because of his anti-state interventionist policy and his business in the private sector.

Noli said he is already on the list of Noli's business in the private sector, Noli said he is already on the list of Noli's business in the private sector.

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No party needed

Noli said he is already on the list of Noli's business in the private sector, Noli said he is already on the list of Noli's business in the private sector.

Advice

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Not Lopez influenced

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Certain of support

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Behind the scenes

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Witness against trap

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- Freezers:** Chest and upright models from brands like Frigidaire and Amana.
- Mixers:** Stand mixers from brands like KitchenAid and others.
- Other Appliances:** Dishwashers, toasters, and small kitchenware.

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Aetas decry rights 'violations' by Army

By TONYA OLIVER
 AP/Correspondent/Manila

MANILA CITY—At least 30 Aeta leaders of the Central Luzon Aeta Association (CLAA) in Pangasinana and Zambales on Tuesday notified Army soldiers for allegedly violating the rights of Aetas in those provinces.

The Aeta leaders appealed for the immediate removal of military detachments in their upland villages, saying they are victims of rights abuses.

Joseph Cabilas, regional chair of the local Peasants party group, said the Commission on Human Rights had not intervened on behalf of the CLAA.

Among the violations cited by

the Aetas were the soldiers' orders on leaving the meeting of soldiers and on the use of big building materials, stones, illegal weapons, enticement, harassment, sexual abuse, and other human rights abuses.

Dr. Chris Ramos Domagala, commander of the Army's North Luzon Command District, said he has not received information or complaints from the CLAA.

leaders' allegations. Domagala said he will write an investigation "as long as there are legitimate grievances."

It was unclear whether the CLAA's list of alleged violations, which was made available to the press, included a telephone interview.

The Army in past reports had contradicted the Pangasinana Army base leaders on some issues, if not part of the general frame, of the New People's Army.

Sen. Antonio O. Sison, who said that the "Sulud" area of Pangasinana was full of the NPA, also denied reports that villagers cooperate with the rebels.

He said that the rebels

regularly illegal searches in houses in Pangasinana, Zambales, and other areas, but that the Aetas claim to be unaware of any such searches.

He said that the Aetas claim to be unaware of any such searches, but that the Aetas claim to be unaware of any such searches.

Generalissimo, he added, was suspicious of the rebels' practice of making food in big quantities.

He said that the rebels have been prohibited from buying or selling big quantities. They said they were preparing food for the rebels. He said that the rebels have been prohibited from buying or selling big quantities.

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large amounts of food to be stored with members of the community," he said.

He said that the Aetas claim to be unaware of any such searches, but that the Aetas claim to be unaware of any such searches.

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Pentagon gang tagged in car dealer's kidnap

MANILA CITY—Police and military on Tuesday yesterday tagged the suspected Pentagon gang as responsible for Monday's disappearance of a Filipino-Chinese car dealer.

The Pentagon gang, believed to be a series of high-profile kidnappings in Central Luzon, was being linked with the suspected Manila-based Liberation Front (MLF).

Meanwhile, Mayor Marikina issued said the gang had contacted the family of the victim.

"They confirmed they have been but I am not sure whether there was anyone else," he said.

The 21-year-old victim was being held in a group of unidentified men who had kidnapped him.

The car was later found abandoned in front of the victim's shop in the city.

Major Gen. Romeo B. Sin, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said a manhunt against the Pentagon gang has already been initiated, particularly in Maguindanao.

The MLF is reportedly a group of men who are believed to be the Pentagon gang's main force.

"We are not sure whether there was anyone else," he said.

Major Gen. Romeo B. Sin, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said a manhunt against the Pentagon gang has already been initiated, particularly in Maguindanao.

The MLF is reportedly a group of men who are believed to be the Pentagon gang's main force.



CHRISTMAS STREET
 A resident of Barangay San Roque, Tuguegarao City, holds up a Christmas tree along the street as part of the city government's efforts to celebrate Christmas.

Local officials threaten to auction off Mactan airport property

By JIMMY HAPALAN
 AP/Manila Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Cebu City government has threatened to auction off the property of the Mactan International Airport Authority (MIAA).

The MIAA is a government-owned corporation that operates the airport.

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Manila City Mayor Antonio Trillanes said last month a warrant for the arrest of the MIAA's president, who is accused of misappropriating funds.

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ROUNDUP

3 dead in road accident

MANILA CITY—A motorcycle crash and a bus accident on Tuesday resulted in three deaths and several injuries in the city.

The motorcycle crash occurred on a busy street in the city.

The bus accident occurred on a highway near the city.

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The bus accident occurred on a highway near the city.

Korean faces charges for molesting 11 girls

By JIMMY HAPALAN
 AP/Manila Bureau

MANILA CITY—A Korean man is facing charges for molesting 11 girls in the city.

The man is accused of molesting the girls in a public place.

The man is accused of molesting the girls in a public place.

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The man is accused of molesting the girls in a public place.

The man is accused of molesting the girls in a public place.

The man is accused of molesting the girls in a public place.

Supports dairy carriage

MANILA CITY—The city government has supported the dairy carriage.

The city government has supported the dairy carriage.

FOUR DIGIT

0 5 8 4
(Last number only)
SUERTES
0 5 4 4

MEGALOTTO 6/48

1 15 26 37 41
26 37 41

METRO

Bureau for (02) 8862-1000

Editor: Richard S. Lim

PNP: Drug lords turn to mini-labs for shabu

NCRPO, MMIDA join hands to restore order in the streets

By Marjorie Ortiz
and Edson Sison Jr.

INTELLIGENCE and discipline in the streets will no longer be the sole business of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MMDA Chair General Fernando recently announced that the agency and the National Capital Region Police will be joining up to run the "Operation as Safer Streets" program, in line with the regional police's recent directive in the north to "weed the presence of drug addicts."

According to what NCRPO Deputy Director General Ricardo de Luna has been ordered to ensure police visibility in the streets to check the rising crime rate in the metropolis.

In the agreement, personnel on foot patrols will have to work hand in hand with MMIDA officers.

The laws said patrolling lawmen will allow all offenders to sidewalk during operations.

"The PNP and the MMIDA are both agencies on the road to establish the need to enter each other's territories and."

By Christian Esguerra
and Tina Santos

POLICE members seized drugs, ingredients and equipment during an early morning raid of a "mini-lab" illegal drug lab in a house in the city.

Along with a search warrant for "Chino" (a.k.a. Lito), members of the Bureau Police and the General Police (PNP) seized the compound of one Chino-Chino at 833 Santa Rosa Street, San Juan City, on Tuesday.

Authorities did not find the al-

leged operator Lito but they seized the resident, head One, 24, One Day, 24, One Day, police director General Lito, said drug quality control center on the spot "to" in the case of government's intention after seized drugs.

Quoted said that the drug lord was now putting up "mini-lab" or "mini-lab" in the case of government's intention after seized drugs.

Quoted said that the drug lord was now putting up "mini-lab" or "mini-lab" in the case of government's intention after seized drugs.

But they soon realized that it would cost them too much to keep a drug laboratory that might fall in government hands, the official added.

"No need to see the justice side," Quoted said.

Senior Supt. Fernando Sempio Jr., Bureau police director, also said the laboratory was put up to replace the drugs facilities that had been closed down by government.

He said the laboratory was put up to replace the drugs facilities that had been closed down by government.

He added the Quinsigao facility was an extension of the drug laboratories discovered in the city and being given more than two weeks.

The Quinsigao said police seized 720 million worth of drugs ingredients and equipment, along with 3 kilos of the finished product, in the raid.

On the same week, CPG learned that some of the seized drugs ingredients and equipment, along with 3 kilos of the finished product, in the raid.

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PNP of the six men accused of kidnapping two Pilipinas women in 1998 took down and seized after a Manila court found them guilty of the crime and sentenced them to death.

6 sentenced to death for '98 abduction

By Terry Delmonico

SIX men, found guilty of kidnapping two Pilipinas women in 1998, were sentenced to death by a Manila court.

The court found the men guilty of kidnapping two Pilipinas women in 1998, were sentenced to death by a Manila court.

The court found the men guilty of kidnapping two Pilipinas women in 1998, were sentenced to death by a Manila court.

Militants get bruised, scratched, wet on Human Rights day

By Lito Solares

INTELLIGENCE power members protesting got wet, scratched and bruised during police dispersal operations in the Plaza Rizal in Manila.

The thousands of the 1,000 protesters from Bayan, Amihan and other groups gathered in the Plaza Rizal in Manila.

They were protesting against the police dispersal operations in the Plaza Rizal in Manila.

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Robot's capture: Aventajado worried

ROBERTO Aventajado, presidential adviser on flagging program during President Arroyo's administration, is probably having sleepless nights lately.

He must be paying hard for the death of Chino Chino, after General Sison, who was captured after government troops a few days ago.

That was not only a military and political loss, but also a loss for the government to make him live.

If he lives, he can make his contribution to the government, as he has been doing in the past.

At the time of the capture, he was the director of the Bureau of the Philippine National Police.

Don't you find it suspicious that after the capture of Chino, Aventajado came out with his own account of the negotiations in a book titled "100 Days of War"?

That's not much of a confession, that after the capture of Chino, Aventajado came out with his own account of the negotiations in a book titled "100 Days of War"?

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ON TARGET
ROBERTO
Aventajado

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Hey Folks!!

Pre-Christmas

DISCOUNTED RATES

at Star City are

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P 300 Entrance & P190 Ride-All-You-Can Tags
up to December 11, 2003

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Enjoy Star City while discounted rates last!



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will take effect on Dec. 12 and all throughout the Christmas Season

By Marjorie Ortiz
and Tina Santos

TWO BIG fires broke out in the city of Pasay, Metro Manila, on Tuesday.

The fire in the vicinity of the Angeles Street, Pasay City, destroyed about 50 units of a multi-story building.

The fire, which started at 10:00 p.m., reached its peak at 11:00 p.m. and was extinguished by the fire department.

He said firefighters were able to control the fire at 6:05 p.m. The fire was put out at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., after firefighters were unable to control the fire, the fire department was called to extinguish the fire.

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Fire officials said the fire broke out at the Lucky One Club bar at 11:00 p.m.

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NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected a bid by a group of states to block a federal law that would require states to allow gay, lesbian and transgender people to serve on juries. The court's decision, by a 5-4 vote, was a significant victory for the federal government and its supporters. The law, known as the Jury Selection and Service Act, was passed in 1967 and has been amended several times since. It requires states to use a random selection process to choose jurors, and to exclude only those who are legally disqualified or who have a disqualifying interest in the case. The law also prohibits states from excluding jurors on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or national origin. The states that filed the lawsuit, including Texas, argued that the law violated their state constitutions and that it was an unconstitutional federal overreach. They claimed that the law forced them to include in their jury pools people who might be biased against them. The federal government, on the other hand, argued that the law was a valid exercise of Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce and that it was necessary to ensure a fair and impartial jury system. The court's decision, written by Justice Sotomayor, held that the law was constitutional and that the states' arguments were unpersuasive. She wrote that the law was a "neutral, nondiscriminatory" statute that applied to all citizens equally. She also noted that the law had been in effect for decades without any major problems. The decision was a clear win for the federal government and its supporters, who had been fighting the lawsuit for years. It also sent a strong message to the states that they could not use their state constitutions to shield themselves from federal laws. The decision is expected to have a significant impact on the way that states select jurors in the future.

Gov't gets \$19M in loan, grant from World Bank

By David C. Dumlao

WORLD BANK and the Philippine government have signed a \$19-million financial package to boost the country's rural electrification program.

The bank said agreement on a \$14-million loan and a separate \$5-million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant for the Rural Power Project (RPP) were signed early this week by its senior Vice-in-Charge, Joseph Sison, World Bank Philippines country director Robert Jones Polley, and Development Bank of the Philippines president Stuart Pimentel.

This is the first of three-phase adaptable program loan that will provide up to \$120 million over a 14-year period to fund the government's rural power development program.

Through this project, the country would make renewable affordable, reliable and adequate electricity to meet the needs of rural communities in a sustainable manner, the bank said.

It said the project would also contribute toward the global objective of mitigating climate change caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through sustainable use of clean, renewable energy technologies to power generation.

"Access to electricity is a key element to rural development. Whether it is used to provide higher quality lighting for rural homes, agricultural to farm-to-market roads or provide power for rural industries and services has many, the availability of electricity can make a difference in the lives of people in rural areas," Polley said.

The project is made up of three components:

- rural electrification sub-project, which includes grid extension, electric cooperative sub-components and decentralized electrification;
- special credit guarantee fund, financed by a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant, and
- capacity building assistance, funded by a World Bank GEF grant, which covers the reduction of market barriers to the commercialization of renewable energy technologies for off-grid electrification.

Progress blooms in La Union

DBP inaugurates new San Fernando, La Union Branch

San Fernando, the "Historical Garden City of the North", is known as a clean and green city with an environmentally aware and progressive community aggressively putting its role as the springboard for development in Region 1.

DBP San Fernando has been an active part of that community, encouraging the pursuit of sustainable and pro-environment development. The branch offers a full range of banking and financial services such as credit facilities for capital needs, investments and working capital, and deposit and investment products and services.

Commercial and trading centers, food processing and manufacturing industries, beach resorts and bus operations, jewelry and woodcraft makers, farmers and fishermen, and educational institutions in the region have all benefited from DBP services.

To further enhance its role as a catalyst for development in the area, DBP has transferred to a more strategically located branch office at the La Union Electric Company (LUEC) Building 6, Quirson Avenue.

For more information, visit calabacard.dbp.com.ph or call 168-168-1684, 0272-242-1444, 0272-242-1444, 0272-888-5823. E-mail address: calabacard@dbp.com.ph

Branch Head: Senior Manager Margaret C. Tondoc



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DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

LIFESTYLE

The lifestyle section of the Philippine Inquirer is available on the Internet at www.philippineinquirer.com



Cali Plaza's fresh oysters served on ice and garnished.

Hotel dining to your heart's content

Text by Jeanette M. Pao
Photos by Rudy Espinoza

If your family has ignored the traditional queso-de-bola and honey-glazed ham on your Noche Buena table these past few Christmases, maybe it's time to rethink this year's holiday feast.

But if whipping up new dishes will only leave you fretted, doing every dinner in rotation, family, ornaments and holly usually come up with their festive counterparts and best deals during the season.

Like most top hotels, The Westin Philippine Plaza has come up with its special Christmas and New Year offerings, and this year, hotels is coming down with a buffet special. Buffets are nothing new, of course. Calabar has been pioneering with its all-in-one buffet, Singapore buffet all down your, and Triple-V has been adding it to its in-the-middle buffet that includes Japanese dishes from Sukki, Western dishes from Dutch and Filipino families from Pampanga. But it's the first time a private hotel is offering a gourmet evening of the holidays.

'Longest' buffet

For several months now, diners have been enjoying the Plaza's five "Longest Buffet" every Thursday and Sunday. At only P199, a gourmet can hop from one buffet set-up to an-

other. They can choose from the Italian (olive oil), the Chinese (dishes served in Chinese), the international (specialties in Calabiao). In addition, there's a drink-all-you-can-join bar which serves local tea, kinohito and pink lemonade.

"People have this notion that it's expensive here or there and they're afraid to try on the restaurant. But this buffet allows guests to try all these cuisines at an affordable price," says Alim-Supernova Executive Director.

Instead of concocting a new dish for your Christmas dinner, why not celebrate with a light one for the family by having fresh oysters, kinohito, mixed Japan beef and Boston seafood?

PHILIPINE



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Over 100 kinds of herbs - for gardeners of good taste

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ROLL the dough into a ball.



DIP each piece with sesame seeds.



FLATTEN the piece with a roller.



PUT 1/2 grams of muscovado in a piece of dough.



ROLL the dough to prepare it for filling.



PRESS pieces with a wooden rod.



CUT into pieces of approximately 1/2 grams each.



MIX the dough by mixing the flour and vegetable oil.

Bacolod's other major tourist draw

Text and photos by Steve Samson
Chief Photographer

THE DELICIOUS Negra Gerendal is a major source of destination for tourists from all over the world. While some, Manila-based travel writers and photographers come here to Bacolod City as a familiarization tour of the province's tourism and coastal sights.

But as much has already been written about the province's Mindanao festival, coastal beaches, centuries-old Spanish houses, so it seemed time to focus on another famous Bacolod delicacy, the piaya, locally also called to Negra Gerendal run here without bringing with him or her bags of the piaya for piaya.

What has become one of the most famous symbols of Negra Gerendal was originally made in Iloilo. In this day, Iloilo's version of the piaya remains different from those made by Iloilo's own hands in the home. The original version was not only a distinctive taste but it also had a unique shape.

Owned and managed by Modesto M. Morales, a 70-year-old retired elementary school teacher, Superland has been producing the piaya since 1970. Morales said piaya making was a family tradition and the skill was passed down to her by her grandmothers.

Even at her age, Morales still does the kneading as well as mixing of piaya's ingredients that include flour, vegetable oil, sesame seeds and the sugar maple refined muscovado, the secret of the piaya. Superland's piaya is a unique blend of sugar and muscovado with a unique shape.

Aside from piaya, Superland also makes delicious kapiyal, pinapito (chicken), banana and pinapito.

The still slightly Modesto discovered how the piaya was made with the help of her two nephews.

Ingredients
1/2 kg flour
1/2 kg vegetable oil
1/2 kg muscovado (raw sugar)
sesame seeds



BAKE in a heating pan for 20 minutes.

STEP BY STEP



COOK piaya in the pan.



PACKAGED piaya.



TRIMCO's three new licensed outlets in Las Vegas, Utah and Reno, Nev. City have acquired the Micro Public point-of-sale system to enhance their service.

OSAGECO's first new franchised outlet is in Las Vegas, Utah and, Summer, Queens City has acquired the MicroPlastic plant of sales representative/contractor John Spruce.

Geacsis Food Corporation owner Dennis Nadel and Marie Sennott, managing director of the Las Vegas branch, said the system speeded up order taking procedures and was cost effective.

Dr. Perry Day, president of the Utah unit, and Dr. George Hughes, managing director of the Sennott branch, also stressed the importance of the system in streamlining operations.



Appendix 10

According to Bazzano, this three-ounce serving for the price of one (after a 4-oz. buffer begins). And for this holiday season, Wines is even extending this good deal every day of the week.

Families can sit down and enjoy their favorite foods (read as White often a "Grand Chalmers Lunch and Dinner Buffet") (P, 200+ per adult; \$160+ per child on Dec. 20 and 22).

A romantic "Steampunk and Flowers & Fucks" event couples—and fertilizes as well—on Dec. 26/27 (PMS) + per person, per night. Events can enjoy a champagne toast at the "Garden Buffet" and go overwellcome to the fireworks presentation, where 17 couples will participate in the five-day competition. Details will also be covered in the show.

Following 2004 with a full season isn't a bad idea either, and thus, Wynn will whip up the "Longest New Year's Eve Baller" on Dec. 31, 6-p.m.-12 midnight, \$1,300+ per table. PAC.com



either end of the buffet table, make sure to have a taste of the freshly baked pizzas and pasta at Allium. Lastly, wrap up the meal with a trip to the dessert table and try one Piemonte's popular mini apple cake, which is also, fresh fruit and other seasonal accents.

While Rosemont admits Flory doesn't tend to pick the "vanilla" trail on the buller's route, he also recommends clients to be a little adventurous.

In Africa, for example, he notes that consumers will go for the "soft" drinks like tangarine, caffeine and four-flavor plant. "It's something new, that might discover something you like. The growing shows a buffer in the market. We're looking a year for certain markets to

And indeed, what better time to try a variety of food guide than the holidays?

For more information, call The Music Philippians
Hous at 202.335.5500 (ext. 1128).

Author's address:

Such buffers, though, can be counterbalancing and Flange happens to be overwise for filling such places with conventional hard metals.

"I'm going to have a little of everything, but be selective, too. Just give what you think we'll like." *—Diane Sawyer*

To enjoy Stuenkel's "Largest Snuffer," lie in water, dream-out first try the jelly fish, second egg or soy chicken from China Inn. Then, which the dishes across the globe at Café Flare—from wings to beer to cocktail to dumplings. At the



LIFESTYLE

Alternatives for people who can't drink milk

UPON us got this interesting letter from a reader (e-mail address: sch1500@yahoo.com). We hardly knew about the condition called larynx laryngitis (or, in layman's

tenes, inability to pass stool), which we were told is common among Filipinos, but before going into a nutrition specialist's explanation of lactose intolerance, here's the water solution:

The

CONSUMER
Harinder
Wadhwa Grewal



"I am lactose intolerant, which means I cannot eat dairy products and that goes, too, for margarine, peanut butter and mayonnaise. But I love to eat meat. My wonder is that nobody in the restaurant and two food establishments would tell me the ingredients of the food they serve. I have tried explain-

They said, "Apple
Pie! Apple Pie!
I've asked Appleton
about their peach
mango pie, apple
bananas, southern
straw. Ah! Should I
be the gassy chick
in Mom's breeding,
apple pie, elephant
straw, KFC for the
gassy, southern
straw, and Dublin
Dennis and Moore
Joost for the cup-
cakes in their

Design and Content Filings

Convinced that if you didn't (because you read labels of popular meat products in the grocery store), you'd think they didn't contain dairy ingredients. They do have skimmed milk. But lots of other processed food items don't even have a list of ingredients on their pack, says, "So how do we, humane consumers, sometimes, know if those products are good or bad for us? I just want to be heard, as my audience, on the ground." 17

Barry's helpful information from College Teachers, a nutritional dietitian at the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (tel. 807-6071) in St. John, 23842.

Lactose intolerance is a condition among people whose body does not produce enough of the enzyme needed to digest carbohydrates in milk. There are two kinds: adult lactose intolerance and primary (or childhood) lactose intolerance. Children with the condition suffer from diarrhea and bloating of stomach when given milk. Adults develop lactose intolerance when they don't drink milk for a long time. The more symptoms someone has, more severe the condition.

Toussaint suggests the following: shift to dairy milk alternatives like soy-based drink and non-dairy milk-based products. Individuals get over their lactose intolerance by gradual re-introduction of milk and dairy products in their diet.

The marriage director advised our letter sender to contact members of The Society of Pediatric Nurses, Endocrinology and Metabolism. Unfortunately, she didn't have the contact numbers when we interviewed her.

Many letters

Richard E. Vennart, of Moorville, Pennsylvania, advises airline passengers to confirm their bookings with the airline itself, particularly if the ticket is bought from an agent. Here's what happened at the airport last year to first-time flier, Vennart:

"My main goal is to help my brothers and nephews on the flight from Manila to Boston City. She had a confirmed ticket that was bought earlier from an underground POC, son of a friend in the Southern, Los Angeles. When the group checked in at 4 a.m. on the day of departure, however, my aunt told me only one sibling ticket was not on the list of confirmed passengers. Despite the group's protest, she was not allowed to board the plane. She was able to fly next day on her own, but she had to be escorted on arrival and accompanied to our home in Boston City, which are 70 kilometers from the airport."

“Influences were not bad at all,” says the complainant. “I was surprised by the agency’s lack of coordination with us.” It was the same survey we got when we asked for a PM, incident in the office.

Asarhau ucisavictoria

Photo your household help about cell phone usage. *Money* magazine: Your page received a text message announcing that she had won \$5 million in a cell phone contest. She included a name and cell phone number she should call for more details. She was informed that the contest was held in New York and she had only seven days to claim her prize. The respondent was to present a valid ID, and a bank account number.⁷

The fall 1997 issue: "Congratulations! The last Nov. 14, 2002, 7 digit of so-Call. No. had won \$1 million. Having Negotiated Demands Ordeal Must Call the law... (xox)" Photo and advertising number of issue was shown.

As expected, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas denied that this was such a ploy.

Charges for phone inquiry

Todd Gosselin of *Seaside, Pennsylvania*, writes: "I didn't know that there was a PS charge imposed from PLIN about telephone numbers. None of the operators at PLIN's information number (877) will tell you that there are charges for your inquiry. I only know about it when I get my latest bill. It's unfair the authors there who are not able to get copies of the telephone directory at the *Seaside, Pennsylvania* office."

A spokesperson for U.S.AT explained to us that collectors had been sufficiently informed about the new charges for telephone number inquiries before it took effect last October. There's a million charges of P3 per inquiry.

long jaggedness (yellow.com note, "I just loaded FIDO with a phone card in my cell phone and then immediately checked my balance. It reflected a PG deduction. Is this the charge for account bal. inquiry?" PG4 didn't Gable inform subscribers about it")

Circle denied that there were changes for account balance reports.

Website for consumers:

From Fred Galati and Anne Inc. (909-995-5000): "Many consumer discussion forums are up and running now (they keep edge and experience either good or bad) among consumers about guitars, cell phones, cars, books, apps, movies, etc. I hope you will find the discussion forum helpful. The main objective of having a consumer discussion forum is to share knowledge and information among consumers regarding consumer welfare."

Here are the links: <http://www.consumer.gov/choice> and <http://www.consumer.gov/choice>

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